

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of culturing human bladder epithelial cells or human epithelial cells of another luminal organ comprising:
 - plating a confluent monolayer of non-proliferating epithelial cells and human bladder epithelial cells or human epithelial cells of another luminal organ in medium on a culture support; and
 - incubating the plated cells under conditions appropriate to allow the human bladder epithelial cells or human epithelial cells of another luminal organ to proliferate.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the human epithelial cells are human bladder epithelial cells.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the human epithelial cells are tumor epithelial cells.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-proliferating cells are cells with which the human epithelial cells form tight junctions.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-proliferating cells are irradiated epithelial cells.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-proliferating cells are rat LA7 cells or other mammary cells.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the medium comprises serum.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the serum is at a concentration of about 0.1% to about 10%.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the serum is at a concentration of about 0.5%.
10. A human bladder epithelial cell culture produced by the method of claim 1.
11. An artificially engineered human bladder epithelial tissue matrix comprising cells from the cell culture of claim 10.
12. A method for providing a tissue matrix for bladder repair comprising contacting cells from the cell culture of claim 10 with an acellular tissue matrix under conditions appropriate for the cells to propagate the matrix.

13. A composition of matter comprising non-proliferating epithelial cells, human bladder epithelial cells or human epithelial cells of another luminal organ, and medium.

14. A composition of matter consisting essentially of non-proliferating epithelial cells, human bladder epithelial cells or human epithelial cells of another luminal organ, and medium.

15. The composition of matter of claim 14, wherein the human epithelial cells are human bladder epithelial cells.

16. The composition of matter of claim 14, wherein the human epithelial cells are tumor epithelial cells.

17. The composition of matter of claim 14, wherein the non-proliferating cells are cells with which the human epithelial cells form tight junctions.

18. The composition of matter of claim 14, wherein the non-proliferating cells are rat LA7 cells or other mammary cells.

19. An assay for studying human bladder epithelial cell-cell communication utilizing the composition of matter of claim 14.

20. An assay for studying human bladder epithelial cell contact inhibition utilizing the composition of matter of claim 14.